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| EXAMINER |
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HALL, COREY JOHN

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4118

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01/06/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                                      |   |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/583,628 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>ACKERMANN ET AL. |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>COREY HALL        | <b>Art Unit</b><br>4118                 |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 June 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/20/2006</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Priority***

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Drawings***

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: “26”. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Specification***

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: “Claim 1 and/or Claim 5” (page 1, line 23) refers to claims which have been canceled, “lint filer” (page 3, line 2) appears to be a misspelling, “en” (page 3, line 24) appears to be a misspelling and “section 21 section 22” (page 4, line 27) appears to be a mistake.

Appropriate correction is required.

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The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

### **Arrangement of the Specification**

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
  - (1) Field of the Invention.
  - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

### **Content of Specification**

- (a) Title of the Invention: See 37 CFR 1.72(a) and MPEP § 606. The title of the invention should be placed at the top of the first page of the specification unless the title is provided in an application data sheet. The title of the invention should be brief but technically accurate and descriptive, preferably from two to seven words may not contain more than 500 characters.
- (b) Cross-References to Related Applications: See 37 CFR 1.78 and MPEP § 201.11.

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- (c) Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research and Development: See MPEP § 310.
- (d) The Names Of The Parties To A Joint Research Agreement: See 37 CFR 1.71(g).
- (e) Incorporation-By-Reference Of Material Submitted On a Compact Disc: The specification is required to include an incorporation-by-reference of electronic documents that are to become part of the permanent United States Patent and Trademark Office records in the file of a patent application. See 37 CFR 1.52(e) and MPEP § 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text were permitted as electronic documents on compact discs beginning on September 8, 2000.
- (f) Background of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(c). The specification should set forth the Background of the Invention in two parts:
  - (1) Field of the Invention: A statement of the field of art to which the invention pertains. This statement may include a paraphrasing of the applicable U.S. patent classification definitions of the subject matter of the claimed invention. This item may also be titled "Technical Field."
  - (2) Description of the Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98: A description of the related art known to the applicant and including, if applicable, references to specific related art and problems involved in the prior art which are solved by the applicant's invention. This item may also be titled "Background Art."
- (g) Brief Summary of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(d). A brief summary or general statement of the invention as set forth in 37 CFR 1.73. The summary is separate and distinct from the abstract and is directed toward the invention rather than the disclosure as a whole. The summary may point out the advantages of the invention or how it solves problems previously existent in the prior art (and preferably indicated in the Background of the Invention). In chemical cases it should point out in general terms the utility of the invention. If possible, the nature and gist of the invention or the inventive concept should be set forth. Objects of the invention should be treated briefly and only to the extent that they contribute to an understanding of the invention.
- (h) Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s): See MPEP § 608.01(f). A reference to and brief description of the drawing(s) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.74.
- (i) Detailed Description of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(g). A description of the preferred embodiment(s) of the invention as required in 37 CFR 1.71. The description should be as short and specific as is necessary to describe the

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invention adequately and accurately. Where elements or groups of elements, compounds, and processes, which are conventional and generally widely known in the field of the invention described and their exact nature or type is not necessary for an understanding and use of the invention by a person skilled in the art, they should not be described in detail. However, where particularly complicated subject matter is involved or where the elements, compounds, or processes may not be commonly or widely known in the field, the specification should refer to another patent or readily available publication which adequately describes the subject matter.

- (j) Claim or Claims: See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP § 608.01(m). The claim or claims must commence on separate sheet or electronic page (37 CFR 1.52(b)(3)). Where a claim sets forth a plurality of elements or steps, each element or step of the claim should be separated by a line indentation. There may be plural indentations to further segregate subcombinations or related steps. See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP § 608.01(i)-(p).
- (k) Abstract of the Disclosure: See MPEP § 608.01(f). A brief narrative of the disclosure as a whole in a single paragraph of 150 words or less commencing on a separate sheet following the claims. In an international application which has entered the national stage (37 CFR 1.491(b)), the applicant need not submit an abstract commencing on a separate sheet if an abstract was published with the international application under PCT Article 21. The abstract that appears on the cover page of the pamphlet published by the International Bureau (IB) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the abstract that will be used by the USPTO. See MPEP § 1893.03(e).
- (l) Sequence Listing: See 37 CFR 1.821-1.825 and MPEP §§ 2421-2431. The requirement for a sequence listing applies to all sequences disclosed in a given application, whether the sequences are claimed or not. See MPEP § 2421.02.

### ***Claim Objections***

4. Claim 22 is objected to because of the following informalities: “The method according to claim 20” where claim 20 is directed to a device. It is suggested and the claim has been examined as if it claim depending on claim 21. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

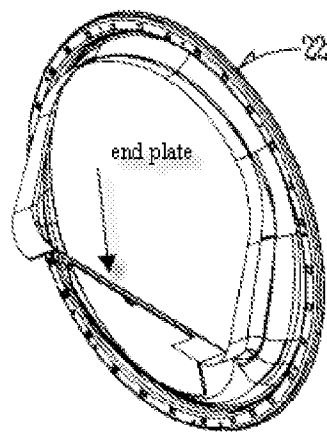
7. Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr (US Patent No. 6,026,592) in view of Kretchman et al. (US Patent No. 4,908,959).

8. Regarding claim 10, Herr discloses a drier (abstract, line 2) comprising a rotary drum 20 (figure 4) that can be fed through a feed opening 22 (figure 4), through which drum process air is able to flow from a rear wall 24 (figure 4) into an end plate (figure 4 and figure A below) adjacent to the feed opening 22 (figure 4), and also comprising a drying basket 16 (figure 4) with a lattice type basket 18 (figure 4) projecting into the drum, which basket is supported demountably in at least one opening on the end plate (column 2, lines 54-56), wherein the drying basket 16 (figure 4) has a longitudinal support (figure 3 and figure B below) projecting into the drum, on which support an integral connecting device (figure 3 and figure B below) is formed, which device engages with the opening (column 2, lines 54-56) and a supporting section 28 (figure 3) which is supported against the end plate (column 2, lines 55-56), except for the integral connecting device being formed with a supporting section. However, Kretchman et al. teaches an integral connecting device 58 (figure 2) being formed with a supporting section 60 (figure 2)

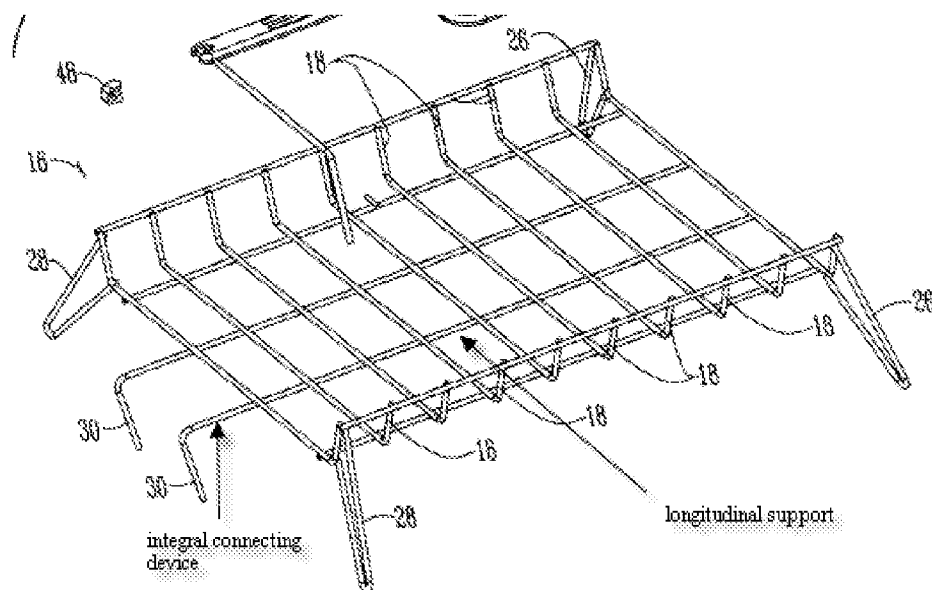
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in order to more stably support the dry rack (column 3, lines 28-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr reference, such that the integral connecting device being formed with a supporting section, as suggested and taught by Kretchman et al., for the purpose of more stably supporting the dry rack.

9. Figure A.



10. Figure B.





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11. In regards to claim 11, Herr and Kretchman et al. disclose the claimed invention including the longitudinal support (figure 3 and figure B above) being designed as wire and the connecting device being a hook 30 (figure 3) formed on one end section of the wire, except for the hook and the support section being formed by a bending process. However, at the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to form the wire hook and the wire support section by a bending process for the purpose of saving material when forming the hooks 30 (figure 3) and the front legs 28 (figure 3, column 2, lines 54-56), since applicant has not disclosed that having the hook and the support section being formed by a bending process provides an advantage, solves any stated problem, or is used for any particular purpose and it appears that the device would perform equally well with either designs.

Furthermore, absent a teaching as to criticality that the hook and the support section be formed by a bending process, this particular arrangement is deemed to have been known by those skilled in the art since the instant specification and evidence of record fail to attribute any significance (novel or unexpected results) to a particular arrangement. In re Kuhle, 526 F.2d 553,555,188 USPQ 7, 9 (CCPA 1975).

12. Claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr (US Patent No. 6,026,592) and Kretchman et al. (US Patent No. 4,908,959) in view of Vande Haar (US Patent No. 6,385,862 B1).

13. In regards to claims 12 and 13, Herr and Kretchman et al. disclose the claimed invention including a longitudinal support on both longitudinal sides (figure 3 and figure B above), except for the end plate having two openings, wherein each longitudinal support engages with one of

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these openings. However, Vande Haar teaches the end plate having two openings (“slots” column 3, lines 57), wherein each longitudinal support engages with one of these openings (figure 3, column 3, lines 56-58) in order to more securely mount the apparatus to the cover piece of the lint filter. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr and Kretchman et al. references, to include the end plate having two openings, wherein each longitudinal support engages with one of these openings, as suggested and taught by Vande Haar, for the purpose of more securely mounting the apparatus to the cover piece of the lint filter.

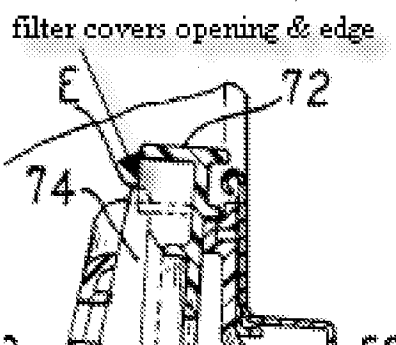
14. Claims 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr (US Patent No. 6,026,592) and Kretchman et al. (US Patent No. 4,908,959) in view of Czech et al. (US Patent No. 4,720,925).

15. In regards to claims 14-15, Herr and Kretchman et al. disclose the claimed invention, except for a demountable lint filter arranged in the end plate, which filter is adjacent to the opening and wherein the opening and the connecting device are covered by the lint filter. However, Czech et al. teaches a demountable lint filter 42 (figure 4, column 3, line 25) arranged in the end plate 58 (figure 4, column 3, lines 41-42), which filter 42 (figure 4) is adjacent to the opening 74 (figure 4) and wherein the opening 74 (figure 4) and the connecting device which connects to the edge would be covered (figure 4 and figure C below) by the lint filter 42 (figure 4) in order to permit removal of the lint filter without dislodging the lint mat thereon (column 3, lines 42-46). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr and Kretchman et al. references, to include a demountable lint filter arranged in the end plate, which filter is adjacent to the opening and

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wherein the opening and the connecting device are covered by the lint filter, as suggested and taught by Czech et al., for the purpose of permitting removal of the lint filter without dislodging the lint mat thereon.

16. Figure C.



17. Claims 16-18, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr (US Patent No. 6,026,592) in view of Vande Haar (US Patent No. 6,385,862 B1) further in view of Kretchman et al. (US Patent No. 4,908,959).

18. Regarding claim 16, Herr discloses a laundry drier (abstract, line 2) comprising a housing 10 (figure 1); a rotary drum 20 (figure 4) disposed within the housing and including a rear wall 24 (figure 4) having inlet openings through which an air flow enters the rotary drum; a feed opening 22 (figure 4) in the housing providing access to the rotary drum; an end plate (figure 4 and figure A above) disposed near a lower portion of the feed opening; a drying basket 16 (figure 3) including two elongated longitudinal supports (figure 3 and figure B above), and a lattice type basket 18 (figure 3) supported by the longitudinal supports, each longitudinal support (figure 3 and figure B above) including a connecting device (figure 3 and figure B above) having a hook 30 (figure 3), a supporting section 28 (figure 3), the drying basket being removably connected to the end plate (column 2, lines 54-56) and projecting into the rotary drum toward the rear wall

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(figure 4) and each of the supporting sections 28 (figure 3) engaging a surface of the end plate (figure 4 and figure A above) to support the drying basket within the rotary drum, except for two basket openings disposed near opposing ends of the end plate, with each of the basket openings receiving one hooks and each longitudinal support including a supporting section. However, Vande Haar teaches two basket openings (“slots” column 3, lines 57) disposed near opposing ends of the end plate and with each of the basket openings receiving one hooks (figure 3, column 3, lines 56-58) in order to more securely mount the apparatus to the cover piece of the lint filter. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr reference, to include two basket openings disposed near opposing ends of the end plate and with each of the basket openings receiving one hooks, as suggested and taught by Vande Haar, for the purpose of more securely mounting the apparatus to the cover piece of the lint filter. Kretchman et al. further teaches each longitudinal support 70 (figure 4) including a supporting section 60 (figure 2) in order to better direct airflow (column 3, lines 41-43). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr and Vande Haar references, to include each longitudinal support including a supporting section, as suggested and taught by Kretchman et al., for the purpose of better directing airflow.

19. In regards to claim 17, Herr, Vande Haar, and Kretchman et al. disclose the claimed invention including the longitudinal support (figure 3 of Herr and figure B above) and connecting device (figure 3 of Herr and figure B above) being integrally formed from a rigid wire member, except for the rigid wire member having various angled section bent into the desired configuration. However, at the time the invention was made, it would have been an

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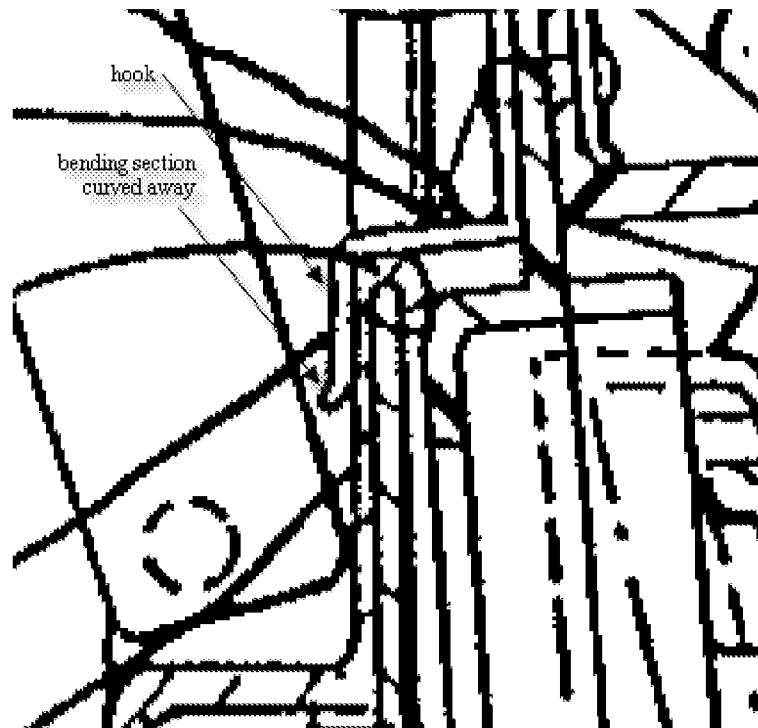
obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to form the rigid wire member having various angled section bent into the desired configuration for the purpose of saving material when forming the longitudinal support (figure 3 of Herr and figure B above) and connecting device (figure 3 of Herr and figure B above), since applicant has not disclosed that having the rigid wire member formed by having various angled section bent into the desired configuration, solves any stated problem, or is used for any particular purpose and it appears that the device would perform equally well with either designs.

Furthermore, absent a teaching as to criticality that the longitudinal support and connecting device be formed by a bending process, this particular arrangement is deemed to have been known by those skilled in the art since the instant specification and evidence of record fail to attribute any significance (novel or unexpected results) to a particular arrangement. In re Kuhle, 526 F.2d 553,555,188 USPQ 7, 9 (CCPA 1975).

20. In regards to claim 18, Herr, Vande Haar, and Kretchman et al. disclose the claimed invention, except for each hook including a bending section curving away from the drying basket. However, Kretchman et al. teaches each hook including a bending section (figure 5 and figure D below) curving away from the drying basket in order to make it easier to attach the hook. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr, Vande Haar and Kretchman et al. references, to include each hook including a bending section curving away from the drying basket, as suggested and taught by Kretchman et al., for the purpose of making it easier to attach the hook.

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21. Figure D.



22. Regarding claim 21, Herr discloses a method (claim 6, line 16) for removably connecting a drying basket 16 (figure 3) to a laundry drier, the method comprising the following acts: providing the laundry drier (abstract, line 2) comprising a housing 10 (figure 1), a rotary drum 20 (figure 4) disposed within the housing, a feed opening 22 (figure 4) in the housing providing access to the rotary drum, and an end plate (figure 4 and figure A above) disposed near a lower portion of the feed opening 22 (figure 4); providing the drying basket 16 (figure 4) including two elongated longitudinal supports (figure 3 and figure B above) and a lattice type basket 18 (figure 4) supported by the longitudinal supports, each longitudinal support (figure 3 and figure B above) including a connecting device (figure 3 and figure B above) having a hook 30 (figure 3), a supporting section 28 (figure 3); inserting each hook into one of the basket openings with the drying basket projecting into the rotary drum (column 1, lines 50-53); and positioning (figure 4,

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column 4, lines 20-21) each supporting section on a surface of the end plate (figure 4 and figure A above) to support the drying basket within the rotary drum, except for the end plate including two basket openings and each longitudinal support including a supporting section. However, Vande Haar teaches an end plate including two basket openings (figure 3, column 3, lines 56-58) in order to more securely mount the apparatus to the cover piece of the lint filter. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr reference, to include the end plate including two basket openings, as suggested and taught by Vande Haar, for the purpose of more securely mounting the apparatus to the cover piece of the lint filter. Kretchman et al. further teaches each longitudinal support 70 (figure 4) including a supporting section 60 (figure 2) in order to better direct airflow (column 3, lines 41-43). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr and Vande Haar references, to include each longitudinal support including a supporting section, as suggested and taught by Kretchman et al., for the purpose of better directing airflow.

23. Claims 19-20, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr (US Patent No. 6,026,592), Vande Haar (US Patent No. 6,385,862 B1), and Kretchman et al. (US Patent No. 4,908,959) in view of Czech et al. (US Patent No. 4,720,925).

24. In regards to claims 19 and 20, Herr, Vande Haar, and Kretchman et al. disclose the claimed invention, except for a removable lint filter including a lint screen and an elongated upper diaphragm having a projection at each opposing end of the upper diaphragm, the end plate including an elongated recess extending between the basket openings and the lint filter being received into the recess and wherein the each projection extends over one of the basket openings

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and restricts the connecting devices from being removed from the basket openings. However, Czech et al. teaches a removable lint filter 42 (figure 4, column 3, line 25) including a lint screen 82 (figure 4, column 3, line 27) and an elongated upper diaphragm 72 (figure 6) having a projection 80 (figure 6) at each opposing end of the upper diaphragm, the end plate 58 (figure 4, column 3, lines 41-42) including an elongated recess 70, 58 (figure 4, column 3, lines 40-42) extending between the basket openings and the lint filter 42 (figure 4) being received into the recess and wherein the each projection 80 (figure 6) extends over one of the basket openings and restricts the connecting devices from being removed from the basket openings in order to control the build-up on a lint filter removably mounted within the housing (column 1, lines 51-53). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr, Vande Haar and Kretchman et al. references, to include a removable lint filter including a lint screen and an elongated upper diaphragm having a projection at each opposing end of the upper diaphragm, the end plate including an elongated recess extending between the basket openings and the lint filter being received into the recess and wherein the each projection extends over one of the basket openings and restricts the connecting devices from being removed from the basket openings, as suggested and taught by Czech et al., for the purpose of controlling the build-up on a lint filter removably mounted within the housing.

25. In regard to claim 22, Herr, Vande Haar, and Kretchman et al. disclose the claimed invention, except for a method comprising: providing a lint filter including a lint screen and an elongated upper diaphragm having a projection at each opposing end of the upper diaphragm; providing an elongated recess within the end plate extending between the basket openings;



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inserting the lint filter into the recess with each of the projections extending over one of the basket openings and restricting the hooks from being removed from the basket openings.

However, Czech et al. teaches a method comprising: providing a lint filter 42 (figure 4, column 3, line 25) including a lint screen 82 (figure 4, column 3, line 27) and an elongated upper diaphragm 72 (figure 6) having a projection 80 (figure 6) at each opposing end of the upper diaphragm, an elongated recess 70, 58 (figure 4, column 3, lines 40-42) extending between the basket openings and inserting (column 3, lines 40-42) the lint filter 42 (figure 4) into the recess 70, 58 (figure 4) with each of the projections 80 (figure 6) extending over one of the basket openings and restricting the hooks from being removed from the basket openings in order to control the build-up on a lint filter removably mounted within the housing (column 1, lines 51-53). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the Herr, Vande Haar, and Kretchman et al. references, to include a method comprising: providing a lint filter including a lint screen and an elongated upper diaphragm having a projection at each opposing end of the upper diaphragm; providing an elongated recess within the end plate extending between the basket openings; inserting the lint filter into the recess with each of the projections extending over one of the basket openings and restricting the hooks from being removed from the basket openings, as suggested and taught by Czech et al., for the purpose of controlling the build-up on a lint filter removably mounted within the housing.

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***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to COREY HALL whose telephone number is (571)270-7833. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9AM to 5PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Quang Thanh can be reached on (571)272-4982. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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